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209546-86427

Amendment in response to Office Action
dated April 1, 2009

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~manufacturing making an~~ accessory for an interior trim door panel of a vehicle, for a vehicle using a two-shot molding technique, said method comprising the steps of:

forming a bezel and switch component that is integral with an armrest of said interior trim door panel by way of a multi-shot molding technique, wherein the bezel and switch component that is integrally-formed with the armrest includes a rigid core portion that forms an opening, wherein the rigid core portion provides a base substrate, wherein the rigid core portion is formed by the multi-shot molding technique by injecting a first material into a first mold cavity that defines a first volume to form a first surface of the interior trim panel for the vehicle, said first surface having sidewalls that define said [[an]] opening,[:]] and a switch pad portion bonded to the opening of the rigid core portion, wherein the switch pad portion includes a plurality of tactile-feedback switch elements each extending outwardly and away from a top surface of the switch pad portion, wherein each tactile-feedback switch element of the plurality of tactile-feedback switch elements is associated with operation of one or more power features of one or more vehicular accessories, wherein the switch pad portion including the plurality of tactile-feedback switch elements is formed by the multi-shot molding technique by injecting a second material into a second mold cavity that defines a second volume and forming a second surface that is directly bonded to said first surface and closes out said opening of said first surface, said second material having at least one differing characteristic than said first material, wherein said first material and said second material define a functional relationship.

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21. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for making an interior trim panel~~ according to claim 20, where said second material includes at least one differing characteristic in comparison to said first material, wherein said first material and said second material define a functional relationship, wherein said differing characteristic between said first material and said second material is [[are]] that said first material surface has a rigid, armrest support characteristic for supporting a limb of a person and said second material surface has a flexible characteristic such that said second for permitting the top surface of the switch pad portion to be [[is]] depressible.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for making an interior trim panel~~ according to claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

~~providing a circuit assembly in selective electrical communication with said one or more discrete switch elements, wherein depression of said one or more discrete switch elements electrically actuates at least a portion said circuit assembly; and~~

attaching the circuit assembly to the rigid core portion, wherein the circuit assembly includes a plurality of contacts that electrically communicate with a plurality of corresponding terminals for controlling said one or more vehicular accessories, wherein each contact of said plurality of contacts is aligned with a corresponding tactile-feedback switch element of said plurality of switch elements, wherein engagement of one of the corresponding tactile-feedback switch element with one of the contacts of the plurality of contacts forms a complete circuit for permitting control over said one or more vehicular accessories.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for making an interior trim panel~~ according to claim 20, wherein at least a portion of one or both of said first surface and said second surface define an exterior surface of said interior trim door panel such that they are externally visible as installed within a vehicle.

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26. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for making an interior trim panel~~ according to claim 20, wherein at least a portion of both said first surface and said second surface define an exterior surface of said interior trim door panel such that they are externally visible as installed within a vehicle.

27. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for making an interior trim panel~~ according to claim 20, wherein said first mold cavity that defines the first volume and said second mold cavity that defines the second volume are the same mold cavity.

28. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for making an interior trim panel~~ according to claim 20, wherein said second surface is attached to said sidewalls of said first surface.

29 (Currently Amended) The method ~~for making an interior trim panel~~ according to claim 20, wherein said first surface is mechanically interlocked to said second surface.

30. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for making an interior trim panel~~ according to claim 20, wherein said step of injection of said second material is subsequent to said step of injection of said first material.

31. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for making an interior trim panel~~ according to claim 20, wherein said second material is injected when said first material is sufficiently cured.

32. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for making an interior trim panel~~ according to claim 21 ~~[[20]]~~, wherein said differing characteristic between said first material and said second material is that said first material is a rigid material that forms a plastic support material, and wherein said second material is a flexible material that forms a ~~relatively soft-touch~~ plastic material.

33. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for making an interior trim panel~~ according to Claim 20, further comprising the step of:

applying a cover over at least a portion of the switch pad portion ~~second surface~~.

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34. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for making an interior trim panel~~ according to claim 33, wherein a material ~~the manufacture~~ of said cover is selected from the group consisting of a spray urethane material and a rotocast material.

35. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for making an interior trim panel~~ according to claim 33, wherein said cover includes integrally-formed identifying markings that identifies functional control over said one or more vehicular accessories.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for making an interior trim panel~~ according to claim 33 ~~[[36]]~~, further comprising the step of:
dispensing a foam layer between said cover and said rigid core portion ~~first surface~~.

38-39. (Cancelled).

40. (New) The method according to claim 20, wherein each tactile-feedback switch element of the plurality of tactile-feedback switch elements includes identifying markings that identifies functional control over said one or more vehicular accessories.

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41. (New) A method for manufacturing an accessory for an interior trim door panel of a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

forming a bezel and switch component that is integral with an armrest of said interior trim door panel by way of a multi-shot molding technique, wherein the bezel and switch component that is integrally-formed with the armrest includes a rigid core portion that forms an opening, wherein the rigid core portion provides a base substrate, wherein the rigid core portion is formed by the multi-shot molding technique by injecting a first material into a first mold cavity that defines a first volume to form a first surface having sidewalls that define said opening, and a switch pad portion bonded to the opening of the rigid core portion, wherein the switch pad portion includes a plurality of tactile-feedback switch elements, wherein the plurality of tactile-feedback switch elements extend away from a top surface of the switch pad portion, wherein the plurality of tactile-feedback switch elements extend away from and are non-planar with an upper surface of the rigid core portion, wherein each tactile-feedback switch element of the plurality of tactile-feedback switch elements is associated with operation of one or more power features of one or more vehicular accessories, wherein the switch pad portion including the plurality of tactile-feedback switch elements is formed by the multi-shot molding technique by injecting a second material into a second mold cavity that defines a second volume and forming a second surface that is directly bonded to said first surface and closes out said opening;

attaching a cover to the bezel and switch component, wherein the cover is disposed over the plurality of tactile-feedback switch elements, the top surface of the switch pad portion and the upper surface of the rigid core portion; and

attaching a circuit assembly to the rigid core portion, wherein the circuit assembly includes a plurality of contacts that electrically communicate with a plurality of corresponding terminals for controlling said one or more vehicular accessories, wherein each contact of said plurality of contacts is aligned with a corresponding tactile-feedback switch element of said plurality of switch elements, wherein engagement of one of the corresponding tactile-feedback switch element with one of the contacts of the plurality of contacts forms a complete circuit for permitting control over said one or more vehicular accessories.

42. (New) The method according to claim 41, wherein one or more regions of the cover that are aligned with one or more of the plurality of tactile-feedback switch elements includes an

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integrally-formed identifying marking that identifies functional control over said one or more
vehicular accessories.